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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,568	03/17/2004	Masaya Hashimoto	325772034800	3453

7590 10/30/2007
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EXAMINER

MCLEAN, NEIL R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/30/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,568

Applicant(s)

HASHIMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Neil R. McLean

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/17/2004; 9/19/2007.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Regarding Claim 1:

"a compressor which compresses inputted job data every block into" is not proper. The examiner suggests changing to:

"a compressor which compresses every block of inputted job data into....."

Similarly, Claim 8 is objected to as well. Appropriate correction is required.

2. Claim 14 is objected to because of the following informalities: The word 'hob' should be 'job'. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ishikawa et al. (US 5,838,833).

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Regarding Claim 1:

A data processing apparatus, comprising:

a compressor (Image Compression Device 1 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 4-10) which compresses inputted job data every block (Column 8, lines 13-19; See Block Allocating Circuit 22 and Second Block Allocating Circuit 23 in Figure 3) into compressed data (FIG. 6 is a flow chart of the compression process performed in the image compression device);

a memory which stores the compressed data every block (Image Memory 21 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 11-12); and

a controller (Area Discriminating Circuit 24 in Figure 3) which sets a size of the block of the data to be compressed every block by said compressor depending on an attribute of the data (e.g., Column 12, lines 9-11).

Regarding Claim 2:

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising an attribute discriminator for discriminating the attribute of the data (Area Discriminating Circuit 24; e.g., Column 8, lines 45-49).

Regarding Claim 3:

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said controller sets the size of the block depending on the attribute of the data into a size of a page unit or a size of a divisional unit which is a size obtained by dividing the size of the page unit by

plural numbers (e.g., Column 12, lines 9-11).

Regarding Claim 4:

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said memory stores the compressed data and a management table, and wherein said controller sets the size of the block based on a total capacity of the compressed data and a management table and a capacity of the memory (Column 7, lines 8-11).

Regarding Claim 5:

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the data attribute is color or monochrome (Column 4, lines 10-19).

Regarding Claim 6:

The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the attribute of the data is binary data or multi-valued data (e.g., Column 7, lines 39-47).

Regarding Claim 8:

A data processing method, comprising the steps of:

setting a size of a block of data (The program code or device which enables the Area Discriminating Circuit 24 in Figure 3 to set the size of a block of data) to be compressed every block by a compressor depending on an attribute of the data (The

program code or device which performs the function described in Column 8, lines 42-49);

compressing data of an inputted job (FIG. 6 is a flow chart of the compression process performed in the image compression device) into the set size of the block by the compressor (The program code or device which enables Image Compression Device 1 in Figure 3 to perform the function described in Column 8, lines 4-10); and

storing the compressed data (The program code or device which enables Image Memory 21 in Figure 3 to store compressed data; Column 8, lines 11-12) into a memory every block (Column 8, lines 13-19; See Block Allocating Circuit 22 and Second Block Allocating Circuit 23 in Figure 3).

Regarding Claim 9:

The data processing method as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of performing attribute discrimination for discriminating the attribute of the data (Area Discriminating Circuit 24; e.g., Column 8, lines 45-49).

Regarding Claim 10:

The data processing method as recited in claim 8, wherein the size of the block is set depending on the attribute of the data into a size of a page unit or a size of a divisional unit which is a size obtained by dividing the size of the page unit by plural numbers (e.g., Column 12, lines 9-11).

Regarding Claim 11:

The data processing method as recited in claim 8, wherein the memory stores the compressed data and a management table, and the size of the block is set based on a total capacity of the compressed data and the management table and a capacity of the memory (The program code or device which performs what is described in Column 7, lines 8-11).

Regarding Claim 12:

The data processing method as recited in claim 8, wherein the attribute of the data is color or monochrome (The program code or device which enables what is described in Column 4, lines 10-19).

Regarding Claim 13:

The data processing method as recited in claim 8, wherein the attribute of the data is binary data or multi-valued data (e.g., The program code or device which enables what is described in Column 7, lines 39-47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa et al. in view of Barnsley et al. (5,065,447).

Regarding Claim 7 and similar Claim 14:

Ishikawa et al. discloses all of the limitations recited in Claims 1 and 8.

However, Ishikawa et al. does not disclose expressly wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy job or another job other than the FAX/copy job.

Barnsley et al. discloses wherein the attribute of the data is a FAX/copy job or another job other than the FAX/copy job (Column 2, lines 51-58).

Ishikawa et al. & Barnsley et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of processing digital data, e.g., image compression.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use the fax of Barnsley et al. in the image compression method of Ishikawa et al.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would be to increase processing speed, take less storage, and reduce transmission cost (Barnsely et al.; Column 1, lines 50-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the fax of Barnsley et al. with the image compression method of Ishikawa et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claims 7 and 14).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Suzuki et al. (US 7,130,072) discloses a multifunction multifunction system applicable to a copying apparatus or a printer, automatic switching of an image processing method and a compression/expansion method for each compressed packet image

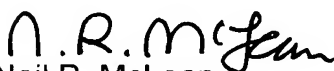
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil R. McLean whose telephone number is 571.

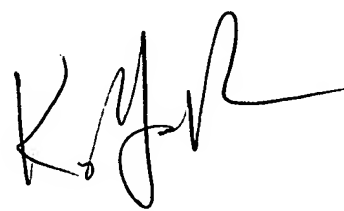
270.1679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571.272.7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Neil R. McLean
10/27/2007


KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER